***Statement***

*State-wise details of houses sanctioned and subsidy released for construction of houses by the Beedi Workers under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2005 during 2005-06 & 2006-07*

| Sl. No. | Name of State | 2005-06 Houses sanctioned | 2005-06 Amount released Rs. (lakh) | 2006-07 (upto Feb. 2007) Houses sanctioned | 2006-07 (upto Feb. 2007) Amount released Rs. (lakh) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 9595 | 3838.00 | 11485 | 3308.00 |
| 2. | Karnataka | — | — | 778 | 277.00 |
| 3. | Orissa | 43 | 17.20 | 1634 | 384.60 |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | 2898 | 615.60 |
| 5. | Bihar | 1016 | 406.40 | 662 | 156.20 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 21 | 8.40 | 128 | 25.60 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | 225 | 45.00 |
| 8. | Jharkhand | — | — | 151 | 30.20 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 187 | 74.80 | 13 | 2.60 |
| 10. | Assam | — | — | 91 | 18.20 |
| 11. | West Bengal | — | — | 168 | 33.60 |
| | TOTAL : | 10862 | 4344.80 | 18233 | 4896.60 |

**Illiteracy amongst labourers**

†1748. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 70 per cent of labourers from organized and unorganized sectors are either illiterate, or are educated upto primary level;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that among the rest 30 per cent labour class, the number of skilled labourers is estimated to be less than 50 per cent;

(d) if not, the Overage number of total skilled labour class during each of last three years; and

(e) the Overage requirement of skilled labourers in the country during each of last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey, for which results are available, was conducted during 2004-05. As per this survey, percentage of the non-literate and literate up to primary level education workers combined together both in organised and unorganised sectors comes to 64.7% of the total work force on usual status basis during 2004-05. The corresponding figure for the year 1999-2000 was about 66.91 per cent. This clearly indicates that there has been an improvement in educational level of the work force over the period, which is attributable to the efforts made by the Central and State Governments through various programmes launched for the purpose of enhancing literacy rate.

(c) to (e) As per the 61st Round Survey Report of National Sample Survey Organisation, among persons of age 15-29 years, about 2% reported to have received formal vocational training and another 8% non formal vocational training. However, average requirement of skilled labourers is not maintained.

**Investment of EPF in equities**

1749. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invest five per cent of employees' provident fund into equities;

(b) if so, the amount so invested and the percentage of investment returns expected therefrom; and

(c) the interest on EPF demanded by the employed and Government's decision thereon?